

- Hori, M. 1993. Frequency-dependent natural selection in the handedness of scale-eating cichlid fish. *Science* 260: 216–219.
- Howell, S. N. G., Webb, S., Sibley, D. A. & Prairie, L. J. 1992. First record of a melanistic Northern Harrier in North America. *West. Birds* 23: 79–80.
- Huxley, J. 1955. Morphism in birds. *Acta XI Congr. Internat. Orn.*: 309–328.
- Lincoln, R. J., Boxshall, G. A. & Clark, P. F. 1982. *A Dictionary of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics*. Cambridge Univ. Press.
- Mindell, D. P. 1983. Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*): a valid subspecies. *Auk* 100: 161–169.
- Palmer, R. S. (ed.) 1988. *Handbook of North American Birds*. Vol. 4. Yale Univ. Press.
- Paulson, D. R. 1973. Predator polymorphism and apostatic selection. *Evolution* 27: 269–277.
- Payne, R. B. 1967. Interspecific communication signals in parasitic birds. *Am. Nat.* 101: 363–375.
- Ridley, M. 1993. *Evolution*. Blackwell Sci. Publ., London.
- Rohwer, S. 1983. Formalizing the avoidance-image hypothesis: critique of an earlier prediction. *Auk* 100: 971–974.
- Wilson, R. P., Ryan, P. G., James, A. & Wilson, M.-P. T. 1988. Conspicuous coloration may enhance prey capture in some piscivores. *Anim. Behav.* 35: 1558–1559.

Addresses: Michael A. Patten, Department of Biology, University of California, Riverside, California 92521, U.S.A. John C. Wilson, 2100 18th Street, Bakersfield, California 93301, U.S.A.

© British Ornithologists' Club 1996

IN BRIEF

THE CORRECT CITATION OF THE BLUE-CHINNED SAPPHIRE *CHLORESTES NOTATUS*

The name of this bird was accredited in Peters (1945) to "C. Reichenbach 1795", and this appears to have been followed, e.g. by Meyer de Schauensee (1966). However, C. Reichenbach did not exist. Until 1908, this species was generally cited as *Chlorestes caeruleus* (Vieillot), i.e. *Trochilus caeruleus* Vieillot 1817 (vol. 7, p. 361), though in fact the earliest use of this name appears to be Audebert & Vieillot 1802 (vol. 1, p. 40). Berlepsch (1908, p. 266 footnote), apparently on the basis of a letter from C. W. Richmond to Ernst Hartert, pointed out that this name was predated by *notatus*. The first reference in literature to the species appears to be "No. 48 *Trochilus* . . ." Richard & Bernard (1792, p. 117). On this was based *Trochilus notatus* G.C. Reich (1793). Berlepsch used this, the earliest name, but quoted the date as 1795. This date was repeated by Peters (1945) who also made the error of transliterating Reich as Reichenbach. I have examined a microfilm copy of Reich's rare paper, and confirm the name and that the date there quoted is 1793. There is no reason to suppose that this date is incorrect, and if Berlepsch had reason to believe that the date of publication was actually later than the date cited, he would probably have commented. It seems likely, therefore, that the date 1795 is a misprint. The correct citation of *Chlorestes notatus* should therefore be: G. C. Reich, 1793, *Magazin des Thierreichs* (Erlangen) 1, Abth. 3, p. 129. Based on Richard & Bernard 1792, *Cat. Ois. env. de Cayenne à la Soc. par M. le Blond*, in *Actes Soc. Hist. Nat. Paris*, i, 1: 117.

References:

- Audebert, J. B. & Vieillot, L. P. 1802. *Oiseaux Dorés*. Paris.
 Berlepsch, H. Graf von. 1908. On the birds of Cayenne. *Novit. Zool.* 15: 103–164, 201–324.
 Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1966. *The Species of Birds of South America and their Distribution*. Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.
 Peters, J. L. 1945. *Check-list of Birds of the World*. Vol. 5. Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard.
 Richard & Bernard [initials unstated]. 1792. Cat. Ois. env. de Cayenne à la Soc. par M. le Blond. *Actes Soc. Hist. Nat. Paris*, i, 1: 116–119.
 Reich G. C. 1793. *Magazin des Thierreichs* (Erlangen) 1, Abth. 3: 129.
 Vieillot, L. P. 1817. *Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle*. Paris.

Bird Group, Natural History Museum,
 Tring,
 Herts HP23 6AP,
 U.K.

MICHAEL WALTERS

6 December 1995

THE EGGS OF *CARPOCOCCYX RENAULDI*: A CORRECTION

Some years ago (Walters 1973, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 93: 174), I described a clutch of four eggs which had been presented to The Natural History Museum by the late L. W. Hill (not Hall, as there misprinted) of "Birdland", Bourton-on-the-Water, as having been laid by Renault's, or the Coral-billed Ground-cuckoo *Carpococcyx renauldi*. It now seems clear that these eggs were in fact misidentified, as their size relative to body size is quite out of proportion to those of other related species.

At that time, I queried the identity of an egg reported in Meise (1964, Schönwetter's *Handbuch der Oologie*, pt. 10), but it would seem that this is in fact likely to be correct. This egg could not be found in 1973, but what appears to be the same specimen has subsequently come to light in the NHM collection. It was laid on 3 July 1927 in the aviary of Alfred Ezra, and given to Walter Rothschild. Schönwetter's measurements, as quoted by Meise (1964), were 44.4×34.0 mm. I subsequently measured it and found it to be 44.5×34.2 mm. This is close enough to demonstrate that it may well be the same egg. Furthermore, curation of the NHM collection has revealed another egg, this time an oviduct specimen, collected by Sir Walter Williamson on 12 June 1918 at Pak Jung, E. Thailand, which measures 42.7×38.1 . Although Williamson had queried the identity of the species for unclear reasons, it seems likely to be correct.

The size of *c.* $42\text{--}44 \times 34\text{--}38$ mm for the eggs of this species seems, therefore, more likely to be correct than the figures ($60\text{--}63 \times 43\text{--}45$ mm) previously given.

Bird Group, Natural History Museum,
 Tring,
 Herts HP23 6AP,
 U.K.

MICHAEL WALTERS

6 December 1995